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# Ex-CIA Employe, Suicide, Linked To Ousted Red

House Group Probes  
Case of Wallen  
And Col. Popov

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The House Un-American Activities Committee is looking into the case of a former Central Intelligence Agency employe who reportedly held a number of clandestine meetings with an assistant Soviet military attache here early last year. The employe later committed suicide.

The committee may issue a statement on its investigation this week.

The man, Nick Clark Wallen, took his life last April 25 in his apartment at Arlington Towers, Arlington, Va.

## Was Research Specialist

A CIA spokesman said Wallen, who was 35 years old at the time of his death, was a research specialist. He started work at the agency January 17, 1955, and "resigned for personal reasons" on December 12 the same year, the spokesman said.

Other sources said that Wallen's separation from CIA was forced and was, in effect, a dismissal.

From some time in January, 1956, until shortly before his death, Wallen is said to have held meetings with Lt. Col. Anatoli A. Popov of the Soviet Embassy. Whether this reported association began while he was still on the CIA payroll is not known.

The State Department canceled Popov's visa within a week or two after the Wallen suicide. The Soviet Embassy notified the Department of Popov's departure for the USSR on July 3. He had been stationed here since December 28, 1953.

## Sought Information

It is understood that Popov tried to persuade Wallen, a captain in the Army Air Forces during World War II, to get a job in the Defense Department and then turn over information to the Russians in return for cash payments.

The Soviet Embassy and the embassies of Russian satellite governments here long have been identified as bases for espionage apparatuses. The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee had testimony to that effect this last week from Alexander Orlov, a former high-ranking officer of the Soviet secret police.

Despite this situation, some congressional Red hunters contend that the State Department has insisted that the FBI not put foreign diplomatic officials under surveillance, thus denying American counter intelligence one of its strongest weapons.

## Sister Doubts Suicide

Although Wallen's sister, a resident of New Jersey, refuses to believe that her brother took his own life, the Arlington coroner reached a verdict of suicide and no autopsy was ordered.

Police said the complicated method by which the intelligence specialist was killed and a note that he left convinced them it was a suicide. Police said further that there were no signs of violence in the seventh-floor apartment, which was locked by a chain-lock from the inside. In addition, it probably took an hour to set up the method of destruction. This is how it was done:

Wallen cut the edge off the middle finger of a rubber glove and taped the open end to the main gas jet on his stove. Then he taped the other end of the glove to the nozzle of a vacuum cleaner hose and put the opposite end of the hose down the top of a plastic garment bag. After taping the top of the garment bag, he unzipped its side, stuck his head in and zipped the bag tightly around his neck. He then turned on the gas.

Wallen's wife, who left the apartment in the morning, called her husband about 1 p.m. and found him in good spirits. When she returned late in the afternoon she found the door chain locked. Failing to get a response, she summoned a building maintenance man, who cut the chain. Shortly after her husband's death, Mrs. Wallen went to England to live with her parents.

The note left by Wallen declared his love for his wife, complained that he had found no success in life, that events had conspired against him and that he, therefore, was taking the easy way out.